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Contractor Told Men to 'Dig It or Lump It'

"Throw-Back" Strike the Latest Thing at Val D'Or.

The following under the heading "Dig It, or Lump It", is from last week's Val D'Or News:

Main street drama reached a new peak recently when two rugged workers found themselves in a predicament. Hired on a sub-contract basis, their task was to make an excavation in front of a well known taxi stand for the entry of the water line and the sewer line. Imagine their surprise, when, with about four feet of work done, they found themselves in a morass of mud, pebbles, water, old cigar butts and tin cans. Here was trouble. They hadn't included that in their verbal agreement. Down went their shovels and they looked up their contractor. "More money," "What for?" Well, it was wet, it was going to take them longer than they thought it would take and their original price was too low. "The hell you say," remarked the stone-hearted contractor to his peeved sub-contractors. "Dig it, or lump it," so the sub-contractors looked again into

their messy hole and lumped it towards the nearest tavern, which was very handy—it was next door.

In the meantime the contractor desiring to have his work completed got two other men to start digging where the others had left off. All was going well until the former sub-contractors, fortified by "what it takes", appeared on the scene and as they watched the new diggers making headway in the trench that they had pioneered, they let out a few explosive expletives. Realizing that they had worked for nothing and would get no pay for their efforts, they suddenly had an inspiration. Without a word of warning they grabbed up a couple of shovels and started shovelling back the dirt that they had removed previously.

The two workers in one end of the trench roared their protests as the earth began to come down in their part of the ditch. The others roared back but still kept on digging. Amidst the roaring of the upper and lower earth tappers the law arrived. The boys above were gaining on the boys below. Finally the boys below climbed out of the trench and the conference the earth tappers would move back and toss in another shovelful. The conference lasted for some time, and when it was over the trench was filled in again and the law found that he could really do nothing about it.

When the last grain of dirt had been vengefully tossed back from where it had been laboriously lifted, the original sub-contractors wiped the sand off their hands, swaggered through the interested crowd to the tavern and remarked to the barman at their elbow "He told us to dig it or lump it, and we sure lumped it." Much laughter.

Power Shovel Head the Wedding Party at Val D'Or

(From Val D'Or News)

An early morning wedding party was held up for twenty minutes on Thursday morning when the cavalcade of cars with the wedding party heading breakfastwards near the main street excavation was forced to follow the lone power shovel as it scampers along the one-way section of road at an all-out speed of .005 miles per hour. In spite of a blast of squawking horns from the cars behind it, the shovel crept along stolidly and at Korman's corner, the horn blowing cars managed to slip by it.

American Restaurant Magazine:—An old New England sea captain, one Hanson Gregory, gave the modern American doughnut its hole. The date of the great contribution was 1874. The captain was a boy at the time. Watching his mother fry doughnuts, he noticed that the centers of the cakes always seemed doughy and suggested eliminating this part before the cakes were cooked. Laughingly she followed the suggestion and the result was so satisfactory that she never went back to the old way. Her method was copied by others until it spread over the whole country.



PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

New Trends in Peasant and Provincial Decorations.

Mexican and Tyrolean Designs Lead—Many Combine Gayly with Maple and Modern.



A pleasant interpretation of the Tyrolean vogue, this living room has chalk blue walls, an interesting mantel with facing of blue and white marbled composition and a shelf holding dramatic painted trays. The rug is blue with white fringe and the chairs are in printed linen. Accessories in copper and brass highlight the room. Most of the furniture is maple.



Here is one of the California colonial pieces of furniture sponsored this season. The cupboard itself is painted in an old dull white, while the inside is in brilliant blue-green with bright contrasting decorations.

Time was when we'd have been calling you names if we said you were countryified. As for saying that you lived like a peasant, well, no doubt you'd have cut us dead. But now it's the height of style to be a country jake, and living like a peasant implies that you're quite highbrow!

But fashions for the country all have a peasant flair these days, either pure or tinged with early American. In fact, the peasant accent is one way of making your old maple seem like something very new and sophisticated. It's interesting with modern, too.

Exciting and Different
By all the odds the Mexican and Pan-American flavor is the most exciting peasant vogue this season. Mainly because it's so different from anything that's come from Europe. One perfectly delightful summer dining room attracted us particularly because it was cool looking and unexpected.

A smallish informal dining room to begin with—walls painted white, furniture in natural light wood finish with pigskin seats a brightly red wooden chest with a lift lid. The end wall of the room was glassed in but with opaque glass and across this in slightly irregular formation were shelves to hold a collection of pale Mexican glass, all ranging through the shades of aquamarine. The oblong wood table stood against a long wall of the room and under an open window with a wood slat shade. Mexican tin candlesticks and lighting fixtures gave a bright and scintillating accent to the room and a centrepiece on the table of pineapple and lemons was colorful and right.

A Matting Floor
Another delightful Mexican-flavored room that we've recently seen had a matting floor, walls painted adobe pink, a bay window with striped cotton draw curtains reaching to the floor, a very modern leather covered sofa in front of the fireplace and a metal bound Pan-American chest with Mexican tin lamps on it. The large bird cage made of some kind of Pan-American reed hung in the centre of the window while under it stood a game table of the same reed. A pair of hassocks with deep grass-type fringe made seats to flank it.

Mexican modern is turning up all

about. For the most part this is expressed with modern furniture in combination with fabrics, rugs or ornaments from beyond the Rio Grande. Or maybe Mexican colors and some Mexican pictures do the trick, with Mexican pottery and glass for good measure. Blue and brick are prevailing colors.

California Colonial

A near relation to these strictly peasant influences are the California colonial things that are appearing all about. Influenced, of course, by a Mexican background, they nevertheless manage to express something of that brilliant flagrant individuality that is California. The interesting thing about this California Colonial vogue is that it has so many tempting versions. Simple and forthright in line, bold in color, free and sweeping in design, it comes as a refreshing interpretation of the informal in decoration. The furniture in this category that is featured now has been painted a very weathered white with bright dashing designs in color. A corner cupboard, for example, rather crude in line and heavy looking, is painted in this off-white, antiqued, then the inside where the open shelves are, is painted in a brilliant green-blue with contrasting flower motifs in white dashing strokes. A bed with low head and footboards finished each with a narrow shelf across them is all in this old white except the part just under the shelves which is in a dull apricot color with the same bright contrasting flower decorations. This type of furniture is doubly interesting because it suggests such grand ideas for rehabilitating old furniture.

Tyrolean

As for the European peasant influences, far and above the most significant this season is the Tyrolean vogue. It continues to inspire both clothes and home furnishings with its hearty freshness. The most sophisticated version of the Tyrolean influence in decoration was a country living room we saw some time ago; the walls were chalk blue, which is very pale—almost a blue-white—and the rug was blue with white fringe. A mantel in curving and swerving outline and faced with a blue and white marbled composition was topped with a narrow shelf holding one

huge painted tray and a pair of smaller ones. Maple furniture of the usual early American variety was the basic furniture but a chest or so of painted Tyrolean furniture were added and two easy chairs were upholstered in a printed linen of more or less Tyrolean motif. An alcove, lined in pine paneling, achieved a pleasant brightness by having a painted decoration against the pine. Into this a maple sideboard with very tall brass candlesticks was placed. Accessories in copper, pewter and brass brightened the whole effect to just the proper gleam.

Another little Tyrolean room that we saw and liked, also maple as to furniture, had wall paper in white with a small red and green flower pot design in it, then draperies of green felt with little red felt rosettes applied on the border. Similar was a room with pine paneled dado, plaid wall paper, maple furniture and Tyrolean motifs in pottery, accessories and curtains (which were also green felt with the same little rosettes of felt applied to the border).

A much simpler and less expensive way to get a Tyrolean atmosphere is to use some of the brightly printed dress cottons—the kind made to sell for dirds. Curtains, informal table cloths or even bed spreads and chair pads of some of these bright cottons will make even the most rock-ribbed New England furniture fairly dance with glee in good Austrian fashion.

A Peasant Aspect for Maple

If you decide to give a peasant aspect to your maple for an informal room, don't take it too seriously. One of the chief charms of the Tyrol is its light-heartedness so be sure to keep that spontaneity when you use it for a decorative theme. It's fun for a change of scene, and very easy to achieve at small cost. That's why it's so delightful for a simple, hearty, much lived-in room.

Both Mexican and Tyrolean motifs are so easily translated into current usage in connection with furniture that you might already have, such as modern or maple, as suggested. But, of course, you don't need to be restrained here if you don't happen to have those particular things and still want to be provincial in the new ways. Makeshift furniture, painted brightly for the purpose, serves almost as well.

Make It Yourself

Or maybe you'd like to decorate some real peasant furniture for yourself. If you do, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for our bulletin "Designs for Painted Furniture Decoration". It includes motifs that you can trace and apply on furniture, thereby brightening many an old and unused piece that will then see better days again. These motifs are peasant, but not any particular nationality. By the colors you use, you can give them whatever character you wish to emphasize in the room—probably they're more Swedish than anything else. In doing a peasant room, you don't need to keep to any one nationality, you know. That means that you can ring in those Italian pottery cups and the French provincial plates you've got left over from other years. And add a Spanish pitcher or a Russian rug for good measure if you're lucky enough to have one.

(Copyright, 1937, by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin.)

Huntingdon Gleaner:—There is to be no more sun-bathing in the forest of Fontainebleau, France, the mayor having decided legs must be covered to the knee and there are to be no more bare backs. Campers, says the mayor, are the worst offenders. They insist on washing in the morning in their bathing suits outside their tents, and drying themselves in the sun. Now no one is allowed to wear a bathing suit as the whole of their costume on pain of prosecution.

There's More Than Meets The Eye!

The unfortunate thing about ordering plumbing or heating work is that the value of the job cannot be judged by the appearance.

True, the attractiveness of the fixtures can be appreciated at a glance but of greater importance still is the quality of the materials and care of the workmanship hidden in the walls. If a high standard is not maintained in this unseen work, trouble will result and great water damage may be done to both the building and furniture before the defect is repaired. All this expense and inconvenience can be saved by entrusting the job to a reliable firm in the first place.

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Petroleum Resources of Manitoulin Islands

Report on Petroleum Possibilities at Manitoulin and Other Islands.

The presence of oil springs near the eastern end of Manitoulin island was first reported by the Jesuit missionaries to the Indians of this region in 1648. Geologists confirmed the occurrence of these springs, and as early as 1863 wells were drilled on them, but with little commercial success. Between the years 1900 and 1912 considerable drilling activity again took place, but as the wells were put down without regard to the results, the results were inconclusive.

The present search for oil-bearing areas throughout Canada has attracted attention to the possibilities of Manitoulin and adjacent islands. In a recent preliminary report (paper 37-25) by the Geological Survey Division, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, timely information is presented on the petroleum resources of the islands, which should prove a valuable guide to future drilling operations. Based on field investigations by M. Y. Williams in 1935, the report contains a lengthy description of the formations and structures, and an account of past drilling operations, together with the records of several of the wells. It is accompanied by two preliminary maps, one showing the geology of Manitoulin island, and the other the locations of wells, and the structure contours on top of the Trenton Group.

The work by the Department during 1935 and in previous years has demonstrated the occurrence of three well-defined structures which have promise for oil and gas accumulations, namely the Gore Bay, Perch Lake and Rattlesnake Harbour structures. The Gore Bay structure regarded as the most favourable, is recommended as the first that should be tested.

The view is expressed however, that it does not seem probable that Manitoulin island will ever be a large producer of oil, but there is room for further exploration on Barrie island, in the area west of Meldrum bay, and on Cockburn island, where no drilling has been done as yet. In the absence of ascertained structures such drilling must be of a "wild-cat" nature, and accurate logs of all wells should be kept as an aid to future development.

Copies of the preliminary report and maps can be obtained from the Chief, Bureau of Geology and Topography, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

When Lamaque Brought in Cattle by the Carload

(From Val D'Or-Lamaque News)

Ben Budgeon, director of mining for the Hammell dynasty, told us one of the best cowboy stories in a long time. It appears that in the early era of Lamaque activity with Green Stöbel already in production the two camps got together on a deal whereby fresh meat was to be made available by the purchasing of a carload of cattle from

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western Canada. This must have been about 1933, because, over the phone system then strung on trees, the local mine officials were notified that their carload of cattle had arrived in Amos and in some mysterious way the door had been opened and the freed bovines were by that time wandering around the streets of Amos. A rush trip to Amos by representatives of both mines resulted in their corraling the cattle and parking them in a scow that was to be towed to Sullivan by a steamboat. As it was nearly at the freeze-up time the scow was left stranded at the mouth of the Milky River by the boat because the lake was freezing rapidly. Hence another rush call came to the mines to salvage their live beef from the barge in the river. This was done and the cattle were herded through the virgin forest some ten miles to Blouin, where they were divided and left in suspense as to the exact date of their demise. When the cattle were counted it was found that one lone steer was missing in the first massed herding of cattle from the Milky to the Stöbel which could be labelled the "Barge of the Steak Brigade". Mr. Budgeon reported at the end of the story that the beef hadn't turned out as fresh as they thought it would be—he also stated that they were glad when the last shoulder was demolished in February of the next year.

Barrie Examiner:—A reader of The Examiner reports that on a trip through the United States she observed the Stars and Stripes flying over every school, large and small, passed during school hours, and suggests that it would be fine to see the Canadian flag flying over every school in Canada. It surely would.



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